

December 17, 1951

Dr. Morris L. Rakieta
Department of Bacteriology
Long Island College of Medicine
335 Henry Street
Brooklyn 2, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Rakieta:

You might conceivably remember my having visited you about five years ago to ask your help in securing some Salmonella phages for some work I was contemplating on the genetics of the Salmonella group. We have since spent most of our time getting away from the ubiquitous lysogenic phages of *S. typhimurium*. One of my students is just now writing up his Ph.D. dissertation on the problem that was started then— recombination in Salmonella. This has turned out quite successfully in a rather startling way (along the lines of the pneumococcus "type transformation"), and such tricks as fabricating a new type: IX, XII, 1;— from typh~~x~~ x typhimurium are not too hard to do.

All this may seem to wander from the point, but not really. I wanted to ask you whether the very interesting flagellotropic phages you described in a paper with Bornstein are still in existence anywhere. I would be particularly interested in the d-specific phages mentioned just in passing in the 1941 paper, but failing them, could you tell me how they were isolated? The paper raised a number of questions in my mind, and I could not find any later references - which would not be difficult to understand in view of the chronology.

I would appreciate any help you can give me, and hope that this letter is not simply ten years too late.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics